lication No.: 09/772,601 ervice as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 262794297/US, in an Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria,

Docket No.: J2167.0247/P24

Docket No.: J2167.0247/P247

(PATENT)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Thomas W. Poplawski et al.

Application No.: 09/772,601

Art Unit: 3624

Filed: January 30, 2001

Examiner: G. R. Akers

For: ELECTRONIC BILL PRESENTMENT AND PAYMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD

## FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

## INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

JAN 1 4 2004